

Application No. 10/672,269
Amendment dated 3/16/2006
Final Rejection dated 12/22/05

Docket No.: 83217US1

REMARKS

By the above amendments, claims 1-8 and 14-16 are canceled, claims 9-13 are withdrawn and new claims 17-19 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

As claims 1-8 and 14-16 have been canceled and claims 9-13 are withdrawn, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections to claims 1-8 and 14-16 are moot. New claims 17-19 are patentable over the prior art of record for the reasons discussed below.

New claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, an ion-ion plasma source comprising: a processing chamber, an electron source..., and an electron beam confiner operable to generate a magnetic field at said electron beam thereby maintaining a current density of said electron beam at approximately 0.1 A/cm^2 . Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art references recite any of the claim limitations of new claim 17.

In addition, new claim 17 does not include any new matter. On page 8, line 21 of the specification the electron beam current density is specified. Moreover, the recitation of "an electron beam confiner" is not considered new matter. Specifically, page 5, line 6 of the specification recites that the electron beam is...shaped and confined by a means for shaping and confining... Applicants respectfully submit that MPEP § 2163.07 (I) states that "[m]ere rephrasing of a passage does not constitute new matter. Accordingly, a rewording of a passage where the same meaning remains intact is permissible." Thus, an electron beam confiner is a mere rephrasing, and is not considered new matter.

New dependent claim 18 depends from novel independent claim 17, and thus is allowable.

New independent claim 19 recites, *inter alia*, a processing chamber, an electron source, and an electron beam confiner operable to generate a magnetic field at approximately 200 G, the magnetic field is applied to said electron beam thereby maintaining said electron beam at approximately 1 meter. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art references recite any of the claim limitations of new claim 19.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

03/16/06 THU 15:21 FAX 202 404 7380

NRL CODE 1008.2 PATENTS

008

Application No. 10/672,269
Amendment dated 3/16/2006
Final Rejection dated 12/22/05

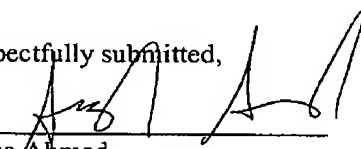
Docket No.: 83217US1

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with respect to new claims 17-19. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Dated:

3/16/06

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Aisha Ahmad
Registration No. 47,381

US NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
4555 Overlook Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20375
(202) 404-1557
Attorney for Applicant